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Recorded from Jakarta

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The government call it the festival of democracy, but it seems that some people just didn't know when to stop partying. Take the people of Pasir for example - a region in East Kalimantan on the island of Borneo - they love Indonesian democracy so much that the turn out was officially recorded at 568,39%. Pasit wasn't the only place where people went, shall we say, over the top. In fact of the countrys 297 regions, fully 15 had turn outs of more than 100%, including central Jakarta and Indonesias equivalent to Oxford - the town of Bandung. Only one province exceeded 100% - unfortunately for Indonesia though it was the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, where 1900 more people voted than there were people to vote. Indonesian ministers struggled for a while to explain this, then the Home Affairs minister came up with the goods - he told a news conference that the surplus represented visiting civil servants, building contractors and seamen...unlikely, but it was at least possible, until that is, we were able to study the detailed figures he distributed at the end of the news conference. These figures give the vote broken down region by region.

By working out how many non-voters there were in each region and then adding those figures to the surplus province-wide of 1900, it's possible to find out a minimum figure for the visiting civil servants, building contractors and seamen who allegedley voted in East Timor. That figure is just over 72,000 - or rather more than one in five of the adult population. I was in East Timor less than 3 weeks ago - there simply aren't that many outsiders there. East Timor isn't the only anomaly. Let's return to East Kalimantan - the place where one region had more than 5 times as many votes as voters. Of that provinces other 5 regions, 3 more had turn outs of more than 100% - and adding up the returns region by region, produces a figure for East Kalimantan almost twice as large as the figure given in the consolidated province-by-province results. Confused? Well, how about West Java? and Bali? In those two provinces the number of votes counted actually fell between the Saturday after the election and the Sunday. There are two explanations

propaganda advantage to the Soviet Union, which was quick to sign. Sir Geoffrey was put on the defensive and could only tell his hosts that Britain had not taken lightly its decision to hold back, but would guarantee not to test or store nuclear weapons on Pitcairn, the only island it still controls.

But the most serious disarray has arisen over the non-nuclear policy of the New Zealand government of Mr. David Lange, banning nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships. The effect has been to put a sudden end to naval visits which in Britains case began two centuries ago with Captain Cook. It's also torpedoes ANZUS, the defence pact linking the United States, Australia and New Zealand, which is now excluded from exercises, intelligence and weapons supplies under its aegis.

In a vain attempt to make Mr. Lange think again, Sir Geoffrey warned him not only of the damage to western security, but that his non-nuclear policy would make it harder for Britain to continue to campaign for New Zealand dairy products in the European Community. Mr. Lange has since branded this as an attempt to interfere in New Zealand's affairs.

On April 25th - ANZAC Day - I attended a dawn service at Canberras magnificent War Memorial to remember the many thousands of Australian and New Zealand troops who fell on that day in World War One. It was a sad reflection that this same unity of allied purpose and action now seems in jeopardy. Mr. Gorbachev, watchin from the eastern outpost at Vladivostok, where last July in a major speech he signalled his new aims in the Pacific, will be shedding no crocodile tears.